

REMARKS

Please reconsider the present application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application and for the courtesies extended during the Examiner Interview. Further, Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 7 and 31-32 contain allowable subject matter

Examiner Interview

The Applicant's representative and the Examiner participated in an interview on February 9, 2006. During the interview, the Applicant's representative briefly described the invention to the Examiner and discussed the U.S. Patent Number 6,181,436 ("Kurachi") and U.S. Patent Number 5,633,992 ("Gyllenskog"). In particular, Applicant's representative discussed proposed claim amendments with the Examiner and how neither Kurachi nor Gyllenskog teach the present invention as recited in the proposed amended claims. At the close of the interview, the Examiner seemed to agree with the Applicant's representatives and stated that a further search would be required.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1, 4-15, and 30-44 are pending in the application. Claim 1 is independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1. Further, claims 45-47 are added by way of this reply.

Claim Amendments

Independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify the present invention. Specifically, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of "wherein the series of reception data comprises a plurality of print job data, and wherein the plurality of print job data comprises a plurality of print jobs in succession;" and to clarify

that the extracting means extracts “a print job in the plurality of print jobs from the series of reception data to create an accepted job, wherein extracting the print job comprises: accepting data in the series of reception data from a start-end pattern data to an end-edge pattern data to obtain accepted data; and grouping the accepted data into the accepted job.” Support for these amendments may be found, for example, in page 14 and 15.

Further, claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form including all limitations of claim 1 and any intervening claims. Claims 45-47 have been added by way of this reply and are dependent on claim 7. Specifically, claims 45-47 include similar limitations as claims 4-7. Applicant asserts that no new subject matter has been added by way of these claim amendment.

Claim Objections

Claims 7, 31-33 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. As previously stated, claims 31-33 are canceled by way of this reply. The subject matter of claims 31-33 are in new claims 45-47. Thus, the objection of claims 31-33 are now moot. Further, claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 7 is allowable. Claims 37 and 45-47, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 7 are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 4, 8-15, 34, and 38-44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 8,181,436 (“Kurachi”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,633,992 (“Gyllenskog”). To the extent that this rejection applies to the amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

The claimed invention relates to a printer that can manage jobs based on identification information. In particular, a series of print job data that includes multiple print jobs in succession is received via a RAW-mode physical channel. Each print job is

extracted based on a start-end pattern and an end-edge pattern to obtain an accepted job. Specifically, the data between the start-end pattern and the end-pattern constitute a single complete print job. Accordingly, the data is grouped into an accepted job. The accepted job then has identification information added so that the accepted job can be managed.

Turning to the rejection, to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness "...the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations." (See MPEP §2143.03). Further, "all words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art." (See MPEP §2143.03).

The Applicant respectfully asserts that Kurachi fails to disclose extracting means that extracts a print job in the plurality of print jobs from the series of reception data to create an accepted job, wherein extracting the print job comprises: accepting data in the series of reception data from a start-end pattern data to an end-edge pattern data to obtain accepted data; and grouping the accepted data into the accepted job.

Specifically, Kurachi is directed towards a print management system for a network. In a network environment, print jobs are received as messages divided into discrete packets. Because a network typically has multiple packets circulating at any one time, determining when a message is complete and how to route the message is performed using headers on the packets of the messages. In particular, headers on packets not only identify a particular packet, but also identify the print job. In Kurachi, in order to extract a print job, the headers of packets are examined. Packets having headers that indicate the same print job are extracted. Thus, in contrast to the claimed invention that requires that a complete print job is obtained by extraction based on a start-end pattern and an end-edge pattern, Kurachi uses the headers of the packets to determine when a complete job is received.

Further, Gyllenskog does not teach that which Kurachi lacks. Gyllenskog is also directed toward a networking environment for printers. Gyllenskog also only uses a

packetized format in which a job is divided into packets. (*See, e.g.*, Gyllenskog, col. 4 ll. 44-54). In fact, Gyllenskog explicitly states that when a printer is not capable of communicating in a packetized format and does not recognize the specific data string, the specific data string will be ignored by the printer as null characters. (*See, e.g.*, Gyllenskog, Abstract). Thus, the only method for Gyllenskog to accept print jobs is through data packets containing portions of the print jobs. Gyllenskog further teaches simulating the network using a direct parallel connection. However, Gyllenskog still maintains the packetized format of data transfer on the direct parallel connection as shown by the use of the handshake protocol. (*See, e.g.*, Gyllenskog, col. 6 ll. 1-9). Thus, in contrast to the claimed invention that requires that a complete print job is obtained by extraction based on a start-end pattern and an end-edge pattern, Gyllenskog uses the headers of the packets to determine when a complete job is received.

In view of the above, it is clear that Kurachi and Gyllenskog, whether considered together or separately, fail to support the rejection of independent claim 1. Claims 4, 8-15, 34, and 38-44 which depend from claim 1 are allowable for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 5, 6, 30, 35, and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurachi in view of Gyllenskog and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,754,747 ("Reilly"). To the extent that this rejection applies to the amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

As shown above, neither Kurachi nor Gyllenskog teach extracting the print job comprises: accepting data in the series of reception data from a start-end pattern data to an end-edge pattern data to obtain accepted data and grouping the accepted data into the accepted job. Further, Reilly does not teach that which Kurachi and Gyllenskog lack.

Specifically, Reilly is also directed towards a network printer. As previously discussed, in a network environment, a complete print job is not between a start-end pattern

and an end-edge pattern. Rather, as previously stated, in a network environment, a print job is determined complete only when all packets have arrived as determined by the packet header. Moreover, anything in Reilly that remotely could be compared to a start-end pattern and end-edge pattern could only identify the beginning and end of a packet rather than the beginning and end of a print job as recited in the presently claimed invention. Thus, in contrast to the claimed invention that requires that a complete print job is obtained by extraction based on a start-end pattern and an end-edge pattern, Reilly must also use the headers of the packets to determine when a complete job is received.

In view of the above, it is clear that Kurachi, Gyllenskog and Reilly, whether considered together or separately, fail to support the rejection of claim 5, 6, 30, 35, and 36. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places the present application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 04783/018001).

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Respectfully submitted,

By  _____

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